



Socio-Economic Conditions of Weavers in Select Districts of Telangana State: A Brief Study

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Abstract:

India's traditional handloom industry has a worldwide reputation, and there is a high demand for it in the local markets. The weavers, on the other hand, suffer a number of difficulties that have an impact on their livelihood and overall well-being. More than 5000 years have passed since the practise of weaving has been practised in India. Additionally, the Ramayana and Mahabharata contain passages that discuss the length of a craft. India which has a rich cultural past in the Handloom Industry, and it is home to the world's largest Handloom Industry as well. As a result, it makes a significant contribution to the economy. The study's goal is to assess the socioeconomic situation of the weavers and make recommendations on how to alleviate their misery. 57 active societies in the Warangal district of Telangana State were interviewed for this study, which was based on primary data obtained through interview schedules. According to the findings of the study, weavers are confronted with a number of difficulties, including financial constraints, an inability to purchase up-to-date machinery, bad working conditions, meager wages, and a lack of government assistance. This study is motivated by the findings of other studies, which show that the profession of weaving is gradually being replaced by government services as a result of the uncertainty that exists in this sector, as well as the government's failure to pay attention to the deteriorating condition of traditional societies. This study also shows how Handloom weavers are experiencing difficulties in marketing, finance, and yarn supply. The numerous initiatives implemented by the government to advance the handloom business are also highlighted. The number of elected male directors is at its maximum in the majority of societies. It is taking its toll on the weavers of Telangana State, who are dependent on the traditional handloom business. With a focus on the Warangal district of Telangana State, this study seeks to evaluate the socioeconomic status of weavers' societies in this region and to make appropriate recommendations for their improvement.

Keywords: Handloom, Weavers, Socio-economic conditions, government services and traditional society.

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Introduction

India's cultural legacy includes traditional hand weaving, which has been practised for centuries. The fact that it provides livelihood options for millions of people puts it in a position of prominence alongside agriculture. Due to a growing demand for handcrafted artefacts and distinctive traditional designs on a national and worldwide scale, the handloom business is flourishing, but the socioeconomic situation of the weaving community is steadily deteriorating. The difficulties that the weavers confront include competing in worldwide marketplaces, having a low level of revenue, having a low market price for the finished goods, and being unable to reach the purchasers. This study is motivated by the findings of other studies, which show that the profession of weaving is gradually being replaced by government services as a result of the uncertainty that exists in this sector, as well as the government's failure to pay attention to the deteriorating condition of traditional societies. The findings of these other studies are discussed in more detail below.

Literature Review

Emmanial. R (2012) The age of Primary Handloom Cooperative Societies in undivided Andhra Pradesh ranges between 5 and 6 years, and more than half of all cooperative Societies were established during the 1960s, according to the findings of his study. A huge number of cooperative societies in the region of study have membership between 101 and 200 members, followed by 501-800 members. (2) A large number of very old societies, some of which were created 50 years ago, are located in the Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh. The majority of cooperative societies have stated that the availability of yarn has been a key source of contention. Apart from that, the Societies are confronted with a variety of additional issues in numerous dimensions, such as financial difficulties, a lack of marketing assistance, and an inability to manage cooperatively in the course of their activities. The Handloom Industry, according to a recent study conducted by Kumudha (2013)³, provides a large number of employment prospects to lakhs of artistic weavers, but has recently been plagued by a number of issues, and has been pushed into the decline stage of the Product Life Cycle. According to him, in order to return the industry back to a state of growth, the issues listed below must be handled effectively.

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An attempt was made by Tripathy (2009)⁴ to investigate the challenges and the prospects of the Handloom Industry in Orissa. According to the findings of the study, there are numerous problems in the decentralised handloom industry, including illiteracy among weavers, insufficient finance and a large number of competing interests, procurement of raw materials, product development, quality control, cost control, and the inability to set a stable price due to fluctuations in yarn prices, among other things. According to the findings of the study, handloom product marketers should be aware of their customers' preferences in terms of design and colour combination when selecting Handloom products, and they should consider product development as an essential exercise for the successful marketing of Handloom products.

Earlier this year, Mathiraj and Rajkumar (2008)⁵ published an analytical study on the production and marketing of handloom products. The study described the Handloom Weavers' Societies' production-related challenges and examined the marketing method that the Weavers' Societies used to sell their products. It also included recommendations for future research. According to the findings of their study, the Societies in the Ramanathapuram District are dealing with a broad range of fluctuations in yarn prices, as well as a scarcity of competent labour. It was recommended that a manufacturing pattern and a sales design might be developed to help handloom items get into the market faster, and that modernization of handloom industries could be accomplished at a low cost to help weavers overcome their difficulties in the process of weaving.

Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies

Located in Telangana State, the Warangal District is one of the most important areas for the handloom industry. Currently, there are 45 Weavers' Co-operative Societies operating in the District, providing employment for 74,905 members. Sarees, Dhoties, Lungies, and Towels are the primary items offered. Apart from these popular kinds, export types of Shatranjies from Shatranji "Handloom Weavers" Co-operative Society Limited", Mattewada, Warangal, Silk Sarees from Jangaon region, and Mercyrized Tie and Die variety Sarees from Ghanpur area are other distinctive and pride products of the District.

The performance of Handloom Weavers Co-operative Societies will be evaluated against this backdrop. Three categories of Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies have been selected for

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the present study: cotton, cotton and silk, and wool. The selected Handloom Cotton Weavers' Co-operative Societies are located in the Warangal District, and the profile of the selected Co-operative Societies which belong to the category of Handloom Cotton is presented in the following section.

In the Warangal District, there are a total of 57 Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Societies. There are 45 active societies and 12 dormant societies among the total number of societies. Some of the Societies have been in a declining state as time has passed, such as Bhavanarushi HWCS Ltd., Neermela, Devaruppula (M) of Warangal district, which had 145 members in 2003 and had fallen to 100 members in 2012, and Shatranj and Nawar Handloom Co-operative Society, Mattewada, Warangal, which had 580 members in 2003 and had fallen to 303 members in 2012.

The survey also revealed that one Society, named Bharath Terricott and Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society limited, Jangaon of Warangal District, has the highest membership of 511 member-weavers for the past 10 years in a row, followed by Venkateshwara HWCS, Kothapally of Lingala Ghanpur (M), with 396 members, and Markandeya HWCS Ltd., Ellanda (V&M) For the past 10 years, there has been no change in the membership of these societies. The membership of Nawar and Shatranj HWCS Ltd., Mandibazaar has decreased from 198 in 2003 to 168 in 2012, a decrease of 14%. Other Societies have seen fluctuations in membership during the course of their ten-year existence.

Statement of the Problem

According to the existing literature, there haven't been many research undertaken on the socio-economic state of the Warangal district. Despite the fact that different programmes have been conducted to improve the social and economic conditions of weaving communities, little progress has been observed. In particular, they were exposed to more risk because to weaknesses in their organisational structure, administrative problems, financial disincentives, insufficient infrastructure, decentralised looms, and poor marketing, among other factors. As a result, the current study intends to investigate the socio-economic profiles of the weaving community in the Warangal area of Telangana State in order to determine their current position.

Objective of the Study

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1. To investigate the social conditions that exist among handloom weaving groups with the goal of determining their status in the society.
2. The purpose of this study is to analyze the economic situation of handloom weavers' societies and determine their economic standing.

Data and Methodology:

Primary data has been acquired from the respondent weavers in order to achieve the study's objectives and goals. In this study, both qualitative and quantitative research techniques were used to gather information. The interviews have been subjected to qualitative analysis and interpretation. The research was carried out in the Warangal District of the state of Telangana. A method of purposive sampling was employed. Data from 57 handloom weavers groups in the Warangal District was used to compile the primary study. The interview schedule included both open-ended and closed-ended questions, depending on the situation. With the handloom weavers' study, researchers hoped for a better understanding of the socio-economic conditions of handloom weaving in order to identify the causes of decline and evaluate the various components of the handloom industry. The key conclusions are that weavers should have government assistance in order to enjoy a higher standard of life and advancement in their socioeconomic status in the society. The majority of the 45 societies under investigation include seven male directors and two female directors, with the exception of one. There are seven male directors and no female directors in one organization. This is an indication that the Board of Directors is skewed solely in favor of the male members of the board.

There are many different types of raw materials that are utilised in the production of garments. They use raw materials for a variety of products such as shirts, suits, sarees, carpets, towels, dungarees, dothies, silk sarees, and so on. For weaving the fabric, they employ variants such as 2/40, 2/6, 2/12, 2/20, 2/30, 2/60/30s, 2/120, 2/60, and so on. They also use varieties such as 2/60, 2/120, and so on. They obtain such varieties from a variety of sources, including APCO, NHDC, Hyderabad, Warangal, Pochampally Buyers, and Bangalore, among others. Finance for various types of cloth was provided by the Societies in the form of bank loans or contributions from individual financiers.



Two hundred weavers have been taken for this study and responses of these selected weavers are reflected through tables illustrated on different statements related to this study.

Table: 1

Percentage of Profit by the Society

Percentage of Revenue	Number of Civilizations
Below 5	26
5-10	14
10-15	2
15-20	1
Total	42

Table: 2

Capacity of Stock raw Materials of the Society

Amount of Stock in rupees /month	Number of Civilizations
Below 50,000	6
50,000 – 99,999	7
100000 - 149999	12
150000- 199999	9
Above 200000	8
Total	42

Table: 3

Problems in Procurement of Raw Material by the society

Problems in procurement of Raw Materials	Number of Civilizations
Transportation	10
Quality	3
High Price	8
Non Availability of credit	10
Transportation and quality	4
Transportation and high price	3
Transportation and non- availability of credit	4
Total	42

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Table: 4

Members in Board	Weaving	Agriculture	Business	Others	Total
President	34	06	02	03	45
Vice-President	25	05	04	02	36
Secretary	34	07	03	01	45
Treasurer	35	06	02	02	45
Directors	39	03	02	01a	45
Total	170	27	15	04	216

MARITAL STATUS OF THE SAMPLE RESPONDENTS

Age of the Defendant	Number of the Defendants
20 – 34	33
35 – 49	82
50 – 64	59
Above 65	26
Total	200

The research reveals that out of the 200 defendants under research, most defendants (83) are in the 35–50 age group, while the minority (25) are over the age of 65. Out of these 200 defendants, most weavers (180) are married, while the minority (20) are single. The age distribution and marital status of weavers' individuals show that the old and married folks, when questioned, stated that their ancestry calling, and lack of employment were the main causes of their situation. It is also evident that they were unable to pursue other careers because they lacked the necessary training and experience.

MARITAL STATUS OF THE SAMPLE RESPONDENTS

Marital Status	No. of Respondents	Male	Female
Married	180	110	80
Un-Married	20	15	5
Total	200	125	75

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It tackles the fact that 70% of respondents (172 in this case) in Warangal District mostly rely on wind. About 30 of the most dedicated members of the board are grouped with the non-winding around group. Their primary lines of work are agribusiness (28 respondents, or 63), business (13 respondents, or 35), and other occupations (03 respondents, i.e., 2). It should be noted that 30% of non-weavers were found in the sample study, even though weaving is not their occupation. The analysis makes it very evident that numerous tangled groups of people oversee and managing the activities of the Handloom Weavers' Co-Usable Societies.

MONTHLY INCOME OF THE FAMILY

Income of the Family	No. of Defendants
2000 – 2999	90
3000 – 3999	37
4000 – 4999	50
Above 5000	23
Total	200

The chart shows that, of the 200 defendants in the study, 90 (45%) receive scheduled salary between \$2,000 and \$2,999, 37 (19%) between \$3,000 and \$4,999, 50 (25%) between \$4,000 and \$4,999, and 23 (11%) receive more than \$5,000. The majority of respondents' households receive exceptionally low wages.

The weaver-individuals' monthly income has decreased from \$2,000 to \$5,000 or more. Of the 200 defendants, 90 receive a monthly salary of Rs. 2000–2999, 37 receive a salary of Rs. 3000–3999, 50 receive a salary of Rs. 4000–4999, and only 23 receive a salary of Rs. 5000 or more. Due to the variability in the dissemination of information, it is discovered that the pay of most responders is low.

Currently, globalisation processes are having an increasing impact on government strategies, which are linked to WTO-instigated trade systems. The handloom situation in the country is likely going to experience unusual adjustments in terms of skills, inputs like plans, market drifts, and altering demands as trade barriers are adjusted and homegrown business sectors open. The question is whether these advancements consider the interests of weavers who are still practising their traditional skills and knowledge. The government is carrying out several preparations and strategies for the benefit of handloom weavers and government aid, as well as for the dynamic

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development of the handloom sector, which has been directly and indirectly providing business to many people. The handloom industry is still astounding in times of need, nevertheless. So, this review tries to look at and analyse the development, execution, and showcasing of handloom textures, as well as the different problems and limitations that come up when weaving textures on handlooms and when trying to sell the woven textures, with a focus on the concerns of the weavers.

Conclusion

Everyone will likely agree that the handloom industry falls under the informal category and is one of the important undertakings that requires immediate attention and thought. Agribusiness and the handloom sector are the two sectors with the greatest potential for employment, and the issue of unemployment will be disturbed by the handloom sector's falling trend. While the country depends equally on each of the three industries—handloom, power loom, and factories—to supply its clothing needs, the falling trend in the handloom sector is unquestionably an unwelcome characteristic. If this trend is allowed to continue, a nation with a population that is growing at a rate of 1.2 crore people will always need fabric. To stop people from dying of hunger and to keep the handloom business from going down, the leaders of Telangana State must recognise the value of the handloom sector and give the necessary resources to help the provincial handloom weavers rise.

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